AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~supply chain~~ transaction network for determining positioning of items within a supply chain that is distributed over a plurality of geographic locations, comprising:

a customer maintenance system into which a work order is entered including information that identifies a piece of equipment to be repaired and one or more items expected to be used during a repair procedure;

a customer agent server in communication with the customer maintenance system which extracts from the work order entered into the customer maintenance system the information that identifies at least the items expected to be used during the repair procedure ~~to create~~ and which uses the information extracted from the work order entered into the customer maintenance system to create an advance demand notice order for the items; and

a distributor system in communication with the customer agent server which responds to a receipt of the advance demand notice order that was created using the information extracted from the work order to calculate a probability that each of the items will need to be used during the repair procedure and to determine, based on the calculated probabilities, at which one or more of the plurality of geographic locations within the supply chain each of ~~initiate a staging of~~ the items needs to be positioned prior to commencement of ~~within a supply chain to meet an expected use of the items during~~ the repair procedure.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 1, further comprising a supplier system that cooperates with the distributor system by ~~supplying into the supply chain the items expected to be used during the repair procedure or replenishing~~ initiating a replenishment at geographic locations within the supply chain of ~~the~~ items that are determined by the distributor system ~~staged~~ in response to the receipt of the advance demand notice to need repositioning to a new geographic location within the supply chain .

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 1, wherein the customer maintenance system comprises a computerized maintenance management system.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 1, wherein the customer maintenance system comprises an enterprise asset management system.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 1, wherein the customer agent server comprises an intelligent agent that extracts the information from the customer maintenance system in response to a user entering or modifying a work order.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 1, further comprising a transportation agent system in communication with the distributor system that coordinates with the distributor system to assist in ~~moving~~ <u>positioning</u> ~~the~~ items <u>at geographic locations</u> within the supply chain <u>as determined to be needed by the distributor system in response to the receipt of the advance demand notice</u>.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 9, wherein the distributor system comprises an intelligent agent in communication with the transportation agent system that monitors ~~movement~~ <u>positioning</u> of the items <u>at geographic locations</u> within the supply chain.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 10, wherein the intelligent agent forms a corrective fulfillment plan if the intelligent agent determines that the items are not being <u>positioned</u> ~~moved~~ within the supply chain <u>as determined to be needed by the distributor system in response to the receipt of the advance demand notice</u> ~~to meet the expected use of the items during the repair procedure~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 1, wherein the distributor system comprises an equipment knowledge base <u>having stored information</u> for use in ~~determining~~ <u>calculating</u> the probability ~~of need for~~ <u>that</u> each item <u>will need to be used during the repair procedure</u> ~~for use in staging the items within the supply chain~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~supply chain~~ transaction network as recited in claim 13, wherein the customer agent server extracts ~~information~~ from the customer maintenance system for populating the equipment knowledge base, the information ~~being~~ used in ~~determining~~ calculating the probability that each item will need to be used during the repair procedure ~~of need of items specified in future work orders~~.

15-22. (Canceled)